

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

744 P STREET
P.O. BOX 942732
SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320



CMSP Letter: 98-8
Date Issued: September 3, 1998

TO: All County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Welfare Directors

**SUBJECT: PROCESSING AID CODES 53 AND 8F - CMSP LONG TERM
CARE (LTC) PERSONS and RELATED ISSUED**

Reference: CMSP Letters 97-1 and 97-2

The CMSP Unit has received several inquiries from the Electronic Data Systems (EDS) Help Desks in regards to the proper processing of aid codes 53 for CMSP persons in a long term care setting, and the companion aid code 8F.

Many of these inquiries indicate that county eligibility staff are confused over, or unaware of, the actions necessary to establish this dual eligibility, the proper share of cost determination, and the general responsibility for the dual aid code processing.

The purpose of this letter is to remind counties of the appropriate actions necessary and to provide some clarification of the issues related to this 53/8F coding.

BACKGROUND

As indicated in CMSP Letter 97-2 (*Processing Medi-Cal Applications for Aid Code 53 Applicants*), aid code 53 was established in 1983 after the Medically Indigent Adult (MIA) population was transitioned from Medi-Cal to the counties. Medi-Cal continued to cover any MIA individual residing in a skilled nursing facility/intermediate care facility (SNF/ICF) except for acute inpatient services which may be necessary for that individual. These acute care services are the responsibility for the county of residence. Aid code 8F was implemented to provide full scope CMSP benefits to these individuals, residing in CMSP counties, to cover the required acute care services.

An individual in aid code 53 with a Share of Cost (SOC) will not have a separate SOC applied to the CMSP 8F aid code. All SOC will be met by the SNF/ICF charges with one SOC spenddown transaction.

When an MIA individual is admitted to an SNF/ICF he or she will receive all LTC covered benefits under aid code 53. Such services include regular physician visits, supplies, medications, etc. Should that same individual become ill/injured and need acute inpatient care (i.e., transfer to an acute care hospital), these acute care services **will not** be covered under the 53 aid code. At the time the LTC patient is transferred to an acute care setting the eligibility worker (EW) must be notified. The county will then establish companion aid code 8F on the eligibility file to cover the acute care services.

Aid code 53 will remain the primary aid code and 8F will be placed in the Special Programs field on MEDS. When the provider swipes the BIC through the POS device two messages will be relayed indicating the eligibility status under both aid codes.

Aid codes 53 and 8F may be applied retroactively if needed.

It is not appropriate for county staff to refer providers or beneficiaries to the CMSP Unit for 53/8F processing. This is the county responsibility as part of normal case processing.

RELATED ISSUES

We would also like to remind county staff that any temporary absence from the county of CMSP individuals who are convalescing with relatives/friends or seeking medical care in a non-CMSP county or another CMSP county which is not their residence **is not basis for discontinuance.**

We have received information from Medical Case Management (MCM) Case Managers that when an MCM patient leaves the county of residence for medical reasons, such absence sometimes results in the patients discontinuance from CMSP. This is not appropriate.

When the EW becomes aware that a CMSP beneficiary has left the county of residence they should explore the reasons and the intended duration of the absence. If the beneficiary maintains her residence, and states that she intends to return to the residence after the medical treatment/convalescence is completed, no adverse action should be taken. Any premature discontinuance may result in the individuals health being compromised, resulting in more critical and expensive care.

This particular subject was covered in CMSP Letter 97-1 (*Temporary Absence from the County*).

If you have any further questions concerning this letter, please direct them to Mr. Gary Varner of the CMSP Unit at (916) 322-1613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda McFarland".

Linda McFarland, Chief
County Medical Services Program Unit